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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 112

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part I)**

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 5, 7 and 12 October 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.3, 5 and 6).

3. For its consideration of the item the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) First report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (A/53/7);

(b) Fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/53/7/Add.3);

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** The report of the Committee on agenda item 112 will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/53/521 and addenda.

98-31576 (E) 221098

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/C.5/52/25);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/C.5/52/45).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At the 6th meeting, on 12 October, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (A/53/7), which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 7, draft decision I).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.7

5. Also at the 6th meeting, the representative of the Bahamas, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations, introduced a draft decision entitled "Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO" (A/C.5/53/L.7).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/53/L.7 without a vote (see para. 7, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly takes note with appreciation of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly[1] and requests the Secretary-General to bring the report to the attention of the executive heads of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of the funds and programmes concerned.

[1] A/53/7.

Draft decision II

Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

The General Assembly:

(a) Requests the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to consider the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

(b) Further requests those bodies to submit their comments, as a matter of priority, for its consideration.

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[2] A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 143 (a)

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the support account under this item at its 3rd, 5th and 10th meetings, on 5, 7 and 19 October 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.3, 5 and 10).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/52/837 and Corr.1) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/892 and A/53/418).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.9

4. At the 10th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Australia, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/53/L.9) entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" and orally revised it as follows:

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(a) In operative paragraph 7, the words "and referred to" were replaced by the words "referred to";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, the words "those and the recent resolutions" were replaced by the words "these and the current resolutions".

5. At the same meeting the representative of Cuba requested that the words "taking into account" in operative paragraph 7 be replaced by the words "taking up". The coordinator proposed, and the representative of Cuba agreed, that the words "taking into account" be replaced by the word "address".

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.5/53/L.9) as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan, Canada, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, New Zealand, India and Cuba (see A/C.5/53/SR.10).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 50/221 A of 11 April 1996, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, 51/239 B of 15 September 1997, 51/243 of 15 September 1997 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 52/234 and 52/248, both of 26 June 1998;

2. *Notes with deep concern* the observations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[3] to the effect that little had been done to meet the explicit concerns of the Committee concerning the quality of information provided by the Secretary-General and that the lack of a reply to requests for clarification or additional information in particular areas had affected a specific recommendation of the Committee;

[1] A/52/837 and Corr.1.

[2] A/52/892 and A/53/418.

[3] A/53/418.

3. *Further notes with concern* that the extension of the deadline for the submission of applications for the replacement of type II gratis personnel has resulted in cases of differential treatment among Member States;

4. *Takes note* of the commitment and assurances by the Secretary-General that the recruitment process for the replacement of type II gratis personnel, including those in the two international tribunals, will be completed by 28 February 1999, in accordance with resolutions 52/234 and 52/248;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision contained in paragraph 16 of its resolution 52/248 to approve 400 support account-funded temporary posts for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when determining the allocation of the 400 support account-funded temporary posts, including the six additional posts, to take into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 a comprehensive review of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, addressing particularly the differences between the functional responsibilities of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters and those of the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and further to develop the concept for its employment during the initial phase of a new peacekeeping operation, as mentioned by the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations in paragraph 101 of its report[4] referred to by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report,[3] and address the issues raised and comments and observations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

8. *Decides* to establish, within the level of the 400 support account-funded temporary posts approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, two civilian posts at the P-4 level (one Humanitarian Affairs Officer and one Civilian Police Officer) for a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and to revert to the issue of the other proposed positions in the context of its consideration of the information requested in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Notes* the observations contained in paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee[3] and decides to establish one post at the P-4 level for the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

10. *Regrets* that a comprehensive review of the issues raised in its resolutions 50/221, 51/239 and 52/248 has not been carried out, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, to give a detailed account of the implementation of these and the current resolutions, including the revised structures of those Departments involved in backstopping peacekeeping operations, redeployment, duplication, overlap, fragmentation, the evolution in peacekeeping trends, changes in workload, and other issues raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 8, 15, 27, 34, 35 and 41 of its report,[3] and to report to the General Assembly thereon.

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[4] A/53/127.

United Nations

A/53/523

General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 28
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Letter dated 25 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

By agreement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I am transmitting to you herewith the text of the resolutions adopted at the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Moscow from 6 to 12 September 1998 (see annexes I to IV).*

I should be grateful if you would have the text of these resolutions distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 28.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

* The annexes are being issued as received in the languages of submission only.

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Annex I

STRONG ACTION BY NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN THE YEAR OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO ENSURE THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 21st CENTURY

Resolution adopted* without a vote by the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Moscow, 11 September 1998)

The 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Acting in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948, whose principles and standards are reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,

Emphasising once again that the Universal Declaration constitutes "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations",

Considering that on the eve of a new century the international community must go beyond merely reviewing the provisions of that historic instrument or calling for the respect of the principles enshrined in that and successive texts, and chart the course of future action,

Acknowledging that human rights, democracy, sustainable development and peace are interrelated and interdependent,

Recognising that human rights, owing to their importance, require effective protection under national legislation as well as international law, which is why many States have enshrined these rights and the main procedures for recourse in their constitutions,

Reiterating its belief that in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international action in the field of human rights must be based on awareness of the political, economic and social realities of each society, and that its principal objective must be to strengthen and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international co-operation,

Affirming that the full participation of women in society and in democratic and transparent decision-making is fundamental to the achievement of their human rights and to stable and productive societies,

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* Before the adoption of the resolution, the delegations of China and Sudan expressed reservations regarding the fourteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 5(i). In addition, the delegation of China expressed reservations on the eighteenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 12, and the delegation of the Republic of Korea on operative paragraph 5(iv). The delegation of Armenia expressed reservations on operative paragraph 6. After the adoption of the text, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic made known its reservations on operative paragraphs 4(ii), 5(ii), 5(iv) and 12.

Aware that extreme poverty prevents the full exercise of human rights, and in some cases even threatens the right to life itself, and that the fight against poverty and the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights are interdependent objectives,

Reaffirming the great importance of the right to development as an integral part of basic human rights for developing countries, and *convinced* that its achievement will contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned that human rights are still subject to grave and repeated violations in many parts of the world and that millions of people are still deprived of their fundamental rights, which demonstrates the inadequacy of the efforts made to change the reality of human relations and to guarantee and protect human rights,

Deploring the political, legal, social, cultural, ideological and educational obstacles which in many societies stand in the way of education inspired by human rights and democracy,

Recognising the need to take specific measures to protect the victims of armed conflict, refugees and displaced persons,

Concerned at the ever-deteriorating situation of several indigenous peoples whose cultural identity is being lost and whose languages are dying out as a result of the policy of resettlement and assimilation pursued by some States,

Recalling resolution 1998/8 adopted at the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 3 April 1998 on the question of the death penalty,

Deploring the abetting of terrorism by any group of persons or by any government in any part of the world under any pretext,

Reiterating that no state of emergency or war may be used to further political and military goals through war crimes and violations of human rights, notably discrimination against girls and women and violence and abuse against children,

Recalling that 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which provides an opportunity for parliamentarians from all countries once again to draw the attention of the international community to the significance of the Convention,

Welcoming the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference, on 17 July 1998 in Rome, as an important commitment by the international community to the elimination of impunity and the establishment of justice,

Gravely concerned at the growing threats to the life and liberty of humanitarian personnel working on behalf of the victims of armed conflict, refugees and displaced persons,

Reaffirming that the protection of the rights of parliamentarians is imperative if they are to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in their respective countries, and that the representative nature of a parliament is closely bound up with respect for the rights of its members,

Stressing the importance of the results achieved by the Inter-Parliamentary Union over some twenty years, at the urging of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, in ensuring respect for the human rights of parliamentarians and for the representative and pluralistic nature of the parliamentary institution,

Recalling the many resolutions on human rights issues adopted in recent years by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in which governments and parliaments were urged to take steps to protect and promote human rights in various parts of the world,

1. *Calls on* national parliaments and regional and international parliamentary assemblies to take appropriate measures to ensure:

   (i) that international and regional human rights instruments are ratified and that those States which have not yet done so accede to these instruments;

   (ii) that these rights are written into legally binding and judicially enforceable texts, such as national constitutions and international conventions;

   (iii) that national law is reviewed and if necessary amended to conform with the norms and standards embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments derived from it;

   (iv) that any notified reservations to international human rights instruments are restricted in scope and that all existing reservations are regularly reviewed with a view to their possible lifting;

   (v) that international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the International Tribunals, are given full support and unrestricted access to information;

   (vi) that independent national human rights bodies with a mandate to monitor compliance with human rights standards and promote human rights are created wherever they do not already exist;

   (vii) that the necessary support is given to parliamentarians and non-governmental organisations working actively to promote the principles of human rights and to defend such rights;

   (viii) that full support is given to the work of the United Nations system, especially to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to international and regional organisations, including the provision of appropriate resources and assistance to human rights field operations;

2. *Encourages* all parliaments as the institutional guardians of human rights:

   (i) to hold special sessions around 10 December 1998 to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, identify existing shortcomings in the implementation of human rights and devise specific measures to promote the universal observance of human rights;

   (ii) to set up national parliamentary committees on human rights to monitor the observance of human rights at the national and international level;

3. *Expresses* the hope that the IPU's governing bodies will consider holding a conference for the representatives of parliamentary human rights bodies in order to study means of strengthening parliamentary action for human rights;

4. *Calls on* parliaments to work actively to ensure:

(i) that national action plans are drawn up to protect and promote human rights by ensuring proper dissemination of knowledge concerning human rights and ways of promoting their realisation among the general public, and encouraging the media to play a vital role by bringing human rights issues to the notice of national parliaments and governments;

(ii) that national governments fulfil their reporting responsibilities towards the human rights treaty bodies in a timely and effective way and that the competent government agencies co-operate fully with the United Nations Special Rapporteurs so that they receive the necessary support to carry out their work effectively;

(iii) that foreign, economic and security policy is consistently framed in a way which effectively promotes democracy, development and human rights in other countries;

5. ***Also calls on*** all parliaments and their members:

(i) to work actively for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty or at least the establishment of a moratorium on executions pending the complete abolition of the death penalty;

(ii) to work actively to end the practice of torture throughout the world and to bring influence to bear on their respective national governments to ensure that they co-operate fully with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture;

(iii) to ensure that parliamentarians have the right to visit prisons and pre-trial detention centres and any other place where people are held against their will, at any time, in order to investigate the human rights situation there;

(iv) to work actively to ban the production, use and stockpiling of landmines and to ensure those who have installed landmines should be made to take responsibility for removing them;

(v) to urge governments to adhere to and take measures to implement international instruments based on the principle of protecting refugees and the victims of armed conflict;

(vi) to take measures to prevent the recruitment of children as soldiers and to ensure that children and young people are not sent to war zones or crisis areas;

(vii) to draft stricter legal standards to prevent physical and sexual violence against children, child pornography, child prostitution, the sale of children and harmful child labour, and to protect children from the effects of war;

(viii) to work actively to safeguard freedom of worship and to use their influence to promote freedom of thought, conscience, opinion and religion;

(ix) to bring influence to bear on their governments to ensure that development co-operation is made contingent on respect for human rights or that development co-operation strategies are shaped in such a way as to bring about an improvement in the human rights situation;

(x) to urge governments to continue to take effective measures to secure the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries;

(xi) to devise specific measures to promote non-discrimination with regard to national, ethnic and social minorities;

6. *Further calls on* governments to recognise that the rights to self-expression and development are fundamental and interdependent human rights, and *urges* them to demonstrate their commitment to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Declaration on the Right to Development by strengthening their efforts to bring to an end all cases of unlawful occupation which deny people their human right to self-expression and development;

7. *Finally calls on* States to refrain from adopting or applying unilateral measures contrary to international law and to the Charter of the United Nations, in particular coercive measures with extraterritorial effect;

8. *Appeals* to governments and parliaments to take appropriate measures to secure genuine equality for women, to ensure their effective and equal participation in public life, to give them equal access to education and to enable them to achieve full enjoyment of their political, economic and social rights in conformity with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the IPU Plan of Action;

9. In this connection, *calls on* governments and parliaments to:

(i) ensure the universal adoption and ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, removing national reservations, and enacting and enforcing national laws;

(ii) adopt and monitor a national action plan, including implementation mechanisms, to improve the human rights of women and ensure that measures are activated at the parliamentary, governmental, regional and local levels;

(iii) work towards the eradication of gender-based persecution in situations of war and conflict, and the provision of justice, security from sexual assault and reparation for the victims;

(iv) enact and enforce laws on, and devote resources and programmes to, the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking in women and girls, rape and genital mutilation;

10. *Also calls on* States and the international community to enhance the access of women to economic well-being by:

(i) providing women with equal access to economic resources, including the right to own property, to inheritance and to credit;

(ii) urging the IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations to fast-track their review of international finances;

(iii) ensuring equal access to education for women and girls;

(iv) ensuring access to clean water so as to reduce unproductive effort by women, support food production and improve health;

11. *Recommends* that governments and parliaments, in recognition of women's rights in all their aspects, dedicate 8 March of the year 2000 to peace, development and democracy based on the empowerment of women;

12. *Urges* all States which have not already done so to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court at the earliest possible opportunity, and *recommends* that the parliaments of those States work actively towards this end; *further recommends* that all parliaments exert all their influence to bring about the speedy establishment and effective functioning of the Court;

13. *Calls on* all States to protect the rights of those who defend human rights around the world, including parliamentarians, *inter alia* by supporting the adoption of the draft declaration on human rights defenders at the 53rd session of the General Assembly;

14. *Requests* States to sign and ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994 and meanwhile to consider ways and means of strengthening the protection of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in support of a humanitarian operation;

15. *Expresses* its appreciation to those States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and *urges* parliaments to work towards universal adherence to and implementation of the Convention;

16. *Condemns* any act by any person, State or group of persons or States and all acts, methods and practices of terrorism of any kind, including State terrorist behaviour, as activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States, destabilising legitimately constituted governments, and targeting civilian populations and viable productive capabilities;

17. *Encourages* an ongoing dialogue between cultures, civilisations, religions and nations with a view to protecting and promoting human rights, and *urges* governments to seek the peaceful settlement of their disputes and differences through negotiations so as to create a peaceful environment for the full enjoyment of human rights by all humanity;

18. *Affirms* that the right to development and decent living standards is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights which should be promoted and fully realised through international co-operation and the creation of a favourable international economic environment without hegemony or the imposition of policies of coercion or starvation of States, and that the inclusion of the Declaration on the Right to Development in the International Bill of Human Rights would be an appropriate means of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

19. *Urges* all the Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to take the necessary steps to ensure that the half-yearly reports of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the corresponding resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Council are brought officially to the attention of national parliaments and are the subject of debate and, if need be, follow-up measures, and *urges* the Committee to disseminate an assessment of its action to restore respect for human rights and the principles of parliamentary democracy;

20. *Also urges* governments and parliaments to ensure full respect for parliamentary guarantees in order to safeguard the independence and autonomy of parliament, as well as the balance of power between the various arms of government, which is the foundation of any democratic system.

Annex II

WATER: THE MEANS REQUIRED TO PRESERVE, MANAGE AND MAKE THE BEST USE OF THIS ESSENTIAL RESOURCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resolution unanimously adopted by the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Moscow, 11 September 1998)

The 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Aware that water is one of the basic elements of life and the most important constituent of the human diet,

Also aware that freshwater resources are essential to basic human needs, health, food production and the preservation of ecosystems,

Mindful that water is one of the most important natural resources and one that will determine future prosperity and stability,

Concerned that potential water shortages increase the possibility that water will be used as a strategic threat and encourage that tendency,

Deeply concerned at the growing threat to water arising from a large number of natural and anthropogenic factors, the latter involving basic processes that result in pollution and shortages and often go hand in hand with wastefulness of the kind that occurs in households and some traditional agricultural methods,

Deeply concerned at the pollution of global water resources and the deterioration in their quality that have continued unabated for years, and at the growth in water consumption and use around the world which is aggravating water shortages in a number of regions,

Aware that many countries have neither the resources nor the capacity to collect, manage and analyse data necessary for planning sustainable water management, and lack the capacity to develop, monitor and enforce water management policies,

Noting that, although water problems occur in specific locations and regions, they are in fact global problems in that their frequency, magnitude, and potential effects are increasing rapidly,

Recognising the need for action to prevent water from becoming a factor limiting sustainable development,

Recalling the WHO "Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality", and *taking into account* the results of important conferences that have dealt with the issue of water, for example the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the International Conference on Water and Environment (Dublin, 1992), the International Forum « Global Water Politics: Co-operation for Transboundary Water Management » (Bonn, 1998), the Expert Group Meeting on Strategic

Approaches to Freshwater Management (Harare, 1998), the Ministerial Meeting on Water Resources and Sustainable Development (Paris, 1998) and the Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 1998),

Mindful of the resolution on environment and development adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Requests and recommends to governments and parliaments:

1. to rapidly initiate co-ordinated and comprehensive international action by, *inter alia*, WHO, FAO, UNEP, HABITAT and other relevant United Nations organisations to ensure access to potable water, especially by vulnerable groups such as women and children, and to develop sustainable strategies for water use in view of the fact that more than a fifth of the world's population have no access to safe supplies of potable water and more than half have no proper sanitary facilities;

2. to implement globally valid minimum standards for the basic supply of potable water and water-related sanitation services to individuals;

3. to agree on international principles of equity regarding access to freshwater resources and, in the case of riparian States, to co-operate on matters relating to international watercourses, whether transboundary or boundary;

4. to take steps to conserve and protect aquatic ecosystems, recognising the important role of and interaction between groundwater, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, the marine environment, vegetation, and in general the links between surface and air processes, at national and international level;

5. through international co-operation, including financial aid, to support research, access to reliable data, the transfer of technology and capacity-building (human, technical and institutional) aimed at appropriate, affordable and environmentally sound solutions to water resource and management problems;

6. to promote the development of alternative methods of supply water, such as purification, desalination and the efficient and safe use of untreated water, and to investigate the feasibility of novel ideas for this purpose;

7. to establish or improve legislative and regulatory frameworks that will facilitate integrated water resource management and encourage public and private investment in the water sector;

8. to take steps to ensure that each country adequately values its freshwater as both an economic and a social good through cost recovery;

9. to give priority to national water policies whose principles and programmes are consistent with the wishes of the national community;

10. to implement the commitments their country has made in regard to the protection of freshwater sources.

Annex III

ACTION TO COMBAT THE CONSUMPTION AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Moscow, 11 September 1998)

The 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Considering that the production, trafficking, marketing and consumption of drugs constitute a world problem which poses a serious threat to individuals, especially youth, to peoples and to States, and requires effective and practical concerted action since, together with terrorism and corruption, it is a major obstacle to the fulfilment of the aspirations of individuals and peoples to development, peace and well-being,

Recognising that this problem cannot be resolved solely by repressive measures, whether applied to supply or demand; on the contrary, it calls for an overall approach designed to overcome poverty and promote the development of peoples, while preserving the natural and environmental resources that are seriously threatened both by the production process and by the repressive measures that are used or proposed,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, which reaffirmed the need for international co-operation and co-ordination as an effective means of combating these problems, and *aware* that action to combat the demand for, production of and illicit trafficking in drugs and associated organised crime can succeed only if all countries and their governments co-operate and intensify their efforts in this regard,

1. *Demands* that States and the international community devote greater attention to solving the world drug problem;

2. *Recommends* that States, recognising their shared responsibility in this matter, co-operate at the multilateral, regional and subregional levels to achieve this goal;

3. *Recommends* to the United Nations General Assembly and regional, subregional and continental organisations that multilateral procedures should be set up as soon as possible to evaluate the progress of national strategies on the world drug problem, while fully respecting international rules and agreements, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and their cultural specificities;

4. *Recommends* to the community of nations a comprehensive approach to the drug problem, including effective policies to combat the illicit use of drugs, recognising that demand and action to combat it are a basic element of this problem;

5. *Recommends* the development of drug control strategies that reduce the demand for drugs through education, prevention, treatment, public awareness and community anti-drug coalitions and campaigns;

6. *Recommends* that the countries which produce plant raw materials adopt an overall approach to the elimination of the illicit crops used for the production of drugs, within the framework of alternative development strategies, and *calls* for international co-operation to support programmes for the conversion of economies that depend on the production of such raw materials;

7. *Recommends* that all countries which produce chemical precursors implement more effective control and monitoring policies to prevent their illicit use, export and diversion for illegal purposes, and that the countries which produce plant raw materials improve their border control systems, in co-ordination with the specialised services of the police and the armed forces;

8. *Demands* that countries engage in special efforts to combat the laundering of proceeds from illicit drug trafficking and other related and unlawful activities, such as arms trafficking, organised crime, terrorism and corruption, by strengthening international co-operation in all areas at both regional and subregional levels, and for this purpose *calls on* all countries to sign the relevant international conventions and enact, within the framework of their respective constitutions, legislation requiring the demonstration of the lawful origin of the money in respect of single significant financial transactions;

9. *Recommends* that States, governments and international organisations provide the human, technical and financial resources that are needed to combat the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, and offer treatment and rehabilitation to addicts in order to facilitate their social reintegration;

10. *Recognises* the legitimate efforts being made by transit countries which are combating the transit of illegal drugs, and *recommends* that those efforts be supported by a combination of assistance and incentives where appropriate;

11. *Demands* that no country serve as a safe haven for persons accused of organised crime, money laundering, drug trafficking or terrorism, or wanted for such crimes, and that all countries refrain from helping such persons to evade the consequences of their crimes, and take all necessary action to bring them to justice, while respecting the sovereignty of States;

12. *Recommends* that countries study the effectiveness of current domestic laws, enforcement practices and legal penalties in reducing domestic drug demand;

13. *Urges* Member Parliaments of the Union to take legislative action that contributes to the application of the above-mentioned principles and report back on the action taken to the 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Annex IV

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Resolution adopted without a vote by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 163rd session (Moscow, 12 September 1998)

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Having noted the third report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law setting out the results of the inquiry on parliamentary action to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and the elimination of anti-personnel mines, conducted at the Council's requests among all member parliaments of the Union (CL/163/12(h)-R.1. and CL/163/12(h)-R.1.Add.1 and Add.2)

A. Questions concerning the inquiry

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

1. *Notes* that in the space of nearly three years, only 67 of the 137 parliaments represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union have responded to the Committee's requests for information;

2. *Notes with great interest* the information already supplied by parliaments, and *expresses its gratitude* to all those who contributed to gathering these important data;

3. *Considers* that the results of the inquiry can only be regarded as partial and that it is important to continue gathering information in order to obtain a broader, fuller and more accurate view of the status of the question in national parliaments;

4. *To that end decides* to extend for four years the mandate of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to enable it to complete the information and its analysis.

B. Questions concerning international humanitarian law

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

1. *Notes* that the results of the inquiry so far show relatively little information and action on the part of parliaments as regards questions concerning international humanitarian law;

2. *Requests* the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to prepare in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations a handbook for parliaments and their members to help them in their legislative and other activities to promote the rules of international humanitarian law and to submit such a document to the Council at its 164th session, in Brussels (10-16 April 1999);

C. Questions concerning the International Criminal Court

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Recalling that, right from the outset, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has supported the efforts undertaken in particular by the United Nations for the establishment of an International Criminal Court,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption on 17 July 1998 in Rome of the Statute of the International Criminal Court by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference, which marks the international community's determination to take steps to ensure that the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression do not go unpunished and that justice is done;

2. *Invites* all parliaments and their members to take action to secure the universal ratification of the Statute of the Court at the earliest possible date and to do everything in their power to ensure that this new international tribunal is indeed set up without delay and provided with the means to operate efficiently.

D. Questions concerning anti-personnel mines

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Recalling that the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction* was adopted in Ottawa on 4 December 1997,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that since then 37 States have ratified this new and important legal instrument and that 130 States have signed it;

2. *Also notes* that the Convention will enter into force once it has been ratified by forty States, and *once again encourages* the Parliaments of signatory States to speed up the ratification procedure so that the Convention may take full effect without delay;

3. *Urges* all governments and parliaments to take the necessary steps for the adoption of enabling laws and regulations which will ensure full compliance with the Convention;

4. *Reiterates* its earlier calls to all States and other parties to armed conflict to contribute on an ongoing basis to international landmine clearance efforts, and *once again encourages* States to fund the United Nations Voluntary Trustee Fund for Mine Clearance;

5. *Also reiterates* its call to the governments and parliaments of the countries concerned to take further action to promote mine-awareness programmes (including gender- and age-appropriate programmes), thereby reducing the number and alleviating the plight of civilian victims;

6. *Likewise reiterates* its call to the governments and parliaments of the countries concerned to release appropriate resources for the treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims;

7. *Requests* the Secretary General of the Union to explore the possibility of developing a database on parliamentary action with regard to anti-personnel mines.